IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

No._____

OCTOBER TERM, A. D. 1946

CHARLES L. SMITH,
Petitioner,

v.

PAUL A. PORTER, Administrator,
Office of Price Administration,
Respondent.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS, NINTH CIRCUIT

SUBJECT INDEX

	Pages
Summary statement of the matter involved	7
Jurisdiction	11
Questions presented	11
Reasons relied on for the allowance of the writ	13
Appendix	37
50 USCA App. sec. 921 (a), (b) and (d)	37
50 USCA App. sec. 922 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (g)	38
50 USCA App. sec. 925 (a) and (e)	40
General Order 53 (8 F.R. 9037)	43
As Amended (9 F.R. 5191)	45

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

CASES

Bowles v. Bay of N. Y. Coal & Supply Corp. (CAA 2) 152 F (2d) 330	16
Bowles v. Beatrice Creamery Co. 146 F (2d) 774	14
Cudahy Packing Co. v. Holland 315 U. S. 357	13
Cudahy Packing Co. v. National Labor Relations Board (CCA 10) 117 F (2d) 692	16
Fed. Trade Commission v. American Tobacco Co. 234 U. S. 298	15, 16
Fleming v. Montgomery Ward & Co. (CCA 7) 114 F (2d) 384 (cert. den. 311 U. S. 690	14
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. v. Nat'l Labor Relations Board (CCA 6) 122 F (2d) 450	16
Hale v. Henkel 201 U. S. 43	15, 16
Market Street R. R. Co. v. Railroad Commission of Calif. 324 U. S. 548	11
Martin v. Chandis Securities Co. (CCA 9) 128 F (2d) 731	15
Nat'l Relations Board v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (DC) 36 F Supp. 413	16
N.L.R.B. v. Mackay Radio and Telegraph Co. 304 U. S. 333	11
Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling 327 U. S. 186	14, 15, 16
Peoples Natural Gas Co. v. Federal Power Commission (CCA DC) 127 F (2d) 153 (cert. den. 316 U. S. 700)	15
Perkins v. Endicott Johnson Corp. (CCA 2) 128 F (2d) 208	15

Pages

Perkins v. Endicott Johnson Corp. (DC) 37 F Supp. 604 16

Pinkus v. U. S. (CCA 7) 155 F (2d) 90 13

Porter v. Mowhawk Wrecking & Lumber Co. (CCA 6) 156 F (2d) 891 13

U. S. v. The Seminole Nation, 299 U. S. 417 11

STATUTES

50 USCA App. sec. 921 10

50 USCA App. sec. 922 ..... 10, 11

50 USCA App. sec. 925 10

Sec. 240 Judicial Code (Title 28 USCA sec. 347) 11

MISCELLANEOUS

General Order 53 (8 F. R. 9037) 10

Revised General Order 53 (9 F. R. 5191) 10, 14

Commentary, 2 Fed. Rules Serv., p. 629 16

Rule 4, Rules of Civil Procedure 15

Rule 12 (a), Rules of Civil Procedure 15

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PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS, NINTH CIRCUIT

To the Honorable the Supreme Court of the United States:
Your Petitioner respectfully shows:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE MATTER INVOLVED

On June 17, 1946, petitioner was served with a purported O. P. A. administrative subpoena duces tecum (R. 6-8). It was signed only by the director of the Seattle district office of the O. P. A. The paper demanded that petitioner, a sole trader doing business as The Dungeness Company

(R. 12), produce all of his financial, accounting, cost and other records at petitioner's office in Seattle on June 18, 1946, for inspection and copying by Ralph Owen and E. V. Patterson (R. 6-7) whose official capacities, if any, are not specified in the subpoena.

Petitioner did not honor the demands of the document and on June 21, 1946, a petition was filed with the district court on behalf of the Administrator of the O. P. A. praying that the court issue an order directing petitioner to appear and produce in his office the records described in the subpoena (R. 2-6). Petitioner was not served with a copy of the petition nor any order to show cause nor any paper whatsoever in connection therewith. Upon learning of the pendency of the petition through his attorneys, petitioner filed the following motions on June 24, 1946:

1. On special appearance, a motion to dismiss the petition because the court lacks jurisdiction over petitioner for the reason that the subpoena is insufficient on its face and invalid. (R. 9-10).

2. On special appearance, a motion to dismiss because the court lacks jurisdiction over petitioner by reason of a failure to serve petitioner with any process in connection with filing of the petition (R. 10-11).

3. Preserving the above special appearances and moving that the petition be dismissed because:

(a) The court lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the petition and

(b) The petition fails to state a claim against petitioner upon which relief can be granted

and his affidavit (R. 12) that petitioner is the sole owner of The Dungeness Company; that it is not a corporation but that petitioner is a sole trader doing business under such name; that he has the sole custody of the records; and that his refusal to obey the subpoena was not contumacious but based upon advice of counsel that the subpoena is invalid.

The district court denied all of these motions on August 7, 1946 (R. 17-19). On August 5, 1946 (R. 15-16), the district court entered its order directing petitioner to appear at his office on August 12, 1946, and produce and make available to the Administrator and his authorized employees all the records listed numerically in the subpoena which pertain to the business of The Dungeness Company. This order was entered without a hearing of any kind and without the court having before it any evidence of the materiality of the records sought and without the court entering any findings of fact or conclusions of law.

Petitioner appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (R. 20) assigning as error the denial of

each of petitioner's respective motions and the entry of the order by the district court (R. 23-26). The circuit court on November 25, 1946, entered its opinion and order affirming all the challenged actions of the district court (R. 32-38). A petition for rehearing filed by petitioner on December 23, 1946, was denied by the circuit court on December 30, 1946.

This case involves the validity of the administrative subpoena, the correctness of the order of the circuit court affirming the action of the district court in denying each of petitioner's respective motions and the validity of the order of the district court which was sustained by the circuit court.

Also involved is the authority of the Administrator to delegate his subpoena power. Statutes involved are 50 U.S.C.A. App. secs. 921 (a), (b) and (d), 922 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (g), and 925 (a) and (e). A construction of General Order 53 (8 F.R. 9037) as revised May 13, 1944 (9 F.R. 5191), by which the Administrator purports to delegate his subpoena power is also involved. These statutes and General Order 53 appear in full in the appendix hereto.

No question of fact is involved.

This writ of certiorari is sought to review the opinion and order of affirmance of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

JURISDICTION

The jurisdiction of this court is invoked by virtue of section 240 of the Judicial Code (Title 28 U.S.C.A. sec. 347). We believe that the jurisdiction of this court is further sustained by 50 U.S.C.A. App. sec. 922, which is the statutory basis for the filing of the petition on behalf of the Administrator and the order of the district court directing petitioner to comply with the subpoena.

The opinion of the circuit court was filed November 25, 1946, (R. 31). The petition for rehearing was filed on December 23, 1946 (R. 38) and a rehearing was denied December 30, 1946 (R. 38). This petition is filed well within the three months limitation since the time does not begin to run until the date of the disposition by the circuit court of the petition for rehearing. *U. S. v. The Seminole Nation,* 299 U. S. 417; *N. L. R. B. v. Mackay Radio and Telegraph Co.,* 304 U. S. 333; *Market Street R. R. Co. v. Railroad Commission of Calif.,* 324 U. S. 548.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

All of the questions presented arise from the action of the district court in denying each of petitioner's motions to dismiss (R. 9-11, 17-19) and the entry of the order by the district court directing petitioner to comply with the sub-

poena (R. 15-16). There are no issues of fact whatsoever, the questions involved being purely legal.

The questions presented are as follows:

1. Does the Administrator of the Office of Price Administration have authority to delegate his subpoena power?

2. Was the subpoena valid where signed only by the district director of the O. P. A. and where it was not signed by, nor on behalf of, the Administrator of the O. P. A.?

3. Was the subpoena valid where it required the records of petitioner to be inspected and copied by Ralph Owens and E. V. Patterson when the subpoena fails to specify what, if any, governmental authority each of them may have?

4. Is the subpoena valid where it fails to state the subject of the inquiry, does not limit the documents demanded to those material to a stated inquiry, nor particularly describe the books and records sought so they can be readily identified?

5. Is the subpoena so vague and sweeping in its requirements as to be unreasonable in its demands and thus void?

6. Did the district court have jurisdiction over petitioner when he was never served with any process whatsoever in connection with the filing of the petition?

7. Is such a proceeding governed by the Rules of Civil Procedure?

8. Did the district court have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the petition, in view of the infirmities of the subpoena, sufficient to authorize the court to enter its order of compliance against petitioner?

9. Did the petition state a cause of action or claim upon which relief could be granted?

10. Was the district court's order valid where there was no hearing of any kind, nor any evidence produced, concerning the materiality of the records sought and the court entered no findings of fact and conclusions of law?

REASONS RELIED ON FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF THE WRIT

1. The decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit holding that the subpoena power of the Administrator is delegable is in direct conflict with *Cudahy Packing Co. v. Holland*, 315 U. S. 357, on the same point.

2. The decision of the circuit court holding that the subpoena power of the Administrator is delegable is in direct conflict with *Porter v. Mohawk Wrecking & Lumber Co.*, (CCA6) 156 F (2) 891, wherein the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit reaches a contrary conclusion on the same point.

3. The decision of the circuit court is probably in conflict with *Pinkus v. U. S.*, (CCA7) 155 F (2) 90, where

the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit apparently holds (p. 92) that under revised General Order 53 (9 F.R. 5191) the subpoena must be issued in the name of the Administrator and signed with his name by the district director. The decision here sought to be reviewed holds the contrary since the subpoena involved was not issued in the name of the Administrator nor signed with the Administrator's name by the district director (R. 6-7).

4. The decision of the circuit court is in conflict with *Boules v. Beatrice Creamery Co.*, (CCA 10) 146 F (2) 774, where the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit ruled that process such as here involved must state the subject of the inquiry, must particularly describe the records sought so they can be readily identified and must limit its requirements to books and papers that are relevant to the inquiry. The subpoena here involved does not meet any of these tests but was held valid. *Cf. Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling*, 327 U. S. 186, 210, n. 46, 48.

5. The decision of the circuit court is probably in conflict with *Fleming v. Montgomery Ward & Co.*, (CCA 7) 114 F (2) 384 (cert. den. 311 U. S. 690) where the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit holds that similar process must require production of the documents only to duly constituted authority. The subpoena did not identify Owens and Patterson as duly constituted authority (R. 6) but nevertheless was held valid.

6. The decision of the circuit court is probably in conflict with *Hale v. Henkel*, 201 U. S. 43, and *Fed. Trade Commission v. Amer. Tobacco Co.*, 234 U. S. 298, in that the subpoena here calls for all of petitioner's records, including all his general correspondence files, without any limitation whatsoever. *Cf. Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, supra.*

7. An important question of federal procedure concerning whether the Rules of Civil Procedure apply to proceedings of this kind was tendered, but not decided by the circuit court. If the Rules are applicable petitioner should have been served by a summons and the petition treated as a complaint (Rule 4, 12 (a)). The question of the applicability of the Rules is a substantial and important one upon which various circuits have expressed apparently divergent opinions. Those holding the view that the Rules do apply are as follows:

Martin v. Chandis Securities Co. (CCA 9) 128 F (2d) 731, 734.

Peoples Natural Gas Co. v. Federal Power Commission, (CCA DC) 127 F (2d) 153 (cert. den. 316 U. S. 700).

Perkins v. Endicott Johnson Corp., (CCA 2) 128 F (2d) 208 (affirmed 317 U. S. 501 without discussing this point).

Contrary rulings are :

Cudahy Packing Co. v. National Labor Relations Board, (CCA 10) 117 F (2d) 692.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. v. Nat'l. Labor Relations Board, (CCA 6) 122 F (2d) 450.

Bowles v. Bay of N. Y. Coal & Supply Corp., (CCA 2) 152 F (2d) 330.

Nat'l. Relations Board v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., (DC) 36 F Supp. 413.

Perkins v. Endicott Johnson Corp., (DC) 37 F Supp. 604.

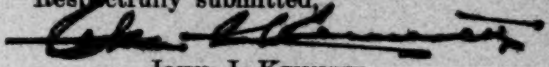
See also Commentary, 2 Fed. Rules Serv., p. 629.

8. The decision of the circuit court is in conflict with *Hale v. Henkel, supra, Fed. Trade Commission v. Amer. Tobacco Co., supra,* and *Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, supra,* in that the circuit court ruled that no hearing need be held, nor evidence produced, concerning the materiality of the documents sought and also ruled that no findings and conclusions of law need be entered.

WHEREFORE petitioner prays that this Honorable Court issue a writ of certiorari directed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to the end that said court's opinion and order affirming the rulings made and approving the order entered by the district court directing petitioner to comply with the sub-

poena may be reviewed and determined by this court, and that the cause be reversed, and for such other relief as the court may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,



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BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION

SUBJECT INDEX

	Pages
The opinion of the court below	25
Jurisdiction	25
Statement of the case	25
Specification of errors	26
Argument	28
Summary of argument	28
Point 1—The Price Administrator is not authorized to delegate the subpoena power granted him by 50 USCA App. sec. 922	29
Point 2—Even though the subpoena power be delegable, the subpoena does not comply with the provisions of General Order No. 53, as revised (9 F. R. 5191)	29
Point 3—The subpoena does not confine its requirements within the limits which reason imposes in the instant case	31
Point 4—The subpoena is invalid because it does not demand production to duly constituted authority	31
Point 5—The subpoena is invalid because of the unreasonable breadth of its demands	32
Point 6—The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit should have determined whether the Rules of Civil Procedure apply	32
Point 7—Evidence of the materiality of the records sought must be presented to the district court and the question of relevancy determined by that court, and findings and conclusions entered	33
Conclusion	34

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

CASES

	Pages
Bowles v. Abendroth (CCA9) 151 F (2d) 407	32
Bowles v. Beatrice Creamery Co. (CCA 10) 146 F (2d) 774	31
Cudahy Packing Co. v. Holland 315 U. S. 357	25, 29
Esgee Company of China v. U. S. 262 U. S. 151	32
Fed. Trade Commission v. Amer. Tobacco Co. 234 U. S. 298	25, 32, 34
Fleming v. Montgomery Ward & Co. (CCA 7) 114 F (2d) 384	31, 32
Hale v. Henkel 201 U. S. 43	25, 32, 34
Harriman v. Interstate Commerce Commission 211 U. S. 407	32
Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling 327 U. S. 186	25, 31, 32, 34
Pinkus v. U. S. (CCA 7) 155 F (2d) 90	30
Porter v. Mohawk Wrecking & Lumber Co. (CCA 6) 156 F (2d) 891	29
Wilson v. U. S. 221 U. S. 361	31

STATUTES

28 USCA sec. 347	25
50 USCA App. sec. 922	25, 28, 33

MISCELLANEOUS

General Order No. 53 (8 FR 9037)	29
General Order No. 53 as revised (9 FR 5191)	28, 29
Rule 3, Rules of Civil Procedure	33
Rule 4, Rules of Civil Procedure	33
Rule 12 (a), Rules of Civil Procedure	33
Rule 52 (a), Rules of Civil Procedure	33, 34

THE OPINION OF THE COURT BELOW

The opinion and order of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (R. 32-38) being Cause No. 11414 of that court entered November 25, 1946, is not yet reported.

JURISDICTION

The date of the judgment to be reviewed is November 25, 1946 (R. 32-38). A petition for rehearing filed December 23, 1946, was denied on December 30, 1946 (R. 38).

The statutory provisions which are believed to sustain the jurisdiction of this court are Title 28 U.S.C.A. sec. 347 and 50 U.S.C.A. App. sec. 922.

Cases in which this court has deemed questions like those here involved worthy of review are:

Cudahy Packing Co. v. Holland, 315 U. S. 357

Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, 327 U. S. 186

Hale v. Henkel, 201 U. S. 43

Fed. Trade Comm. v. Amer. Tobacco Co., 234 U. S. 298

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

A statement of the case has already been made on page 7 of the petition, which statement is hereby adopted and made a part of this brief.

SPECIFICATION OF ERRORS

1. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit erred in holding that the district court did not commit error in denying petitioner's Motion to Dismiss on Special Appearance Re Subpoena for the reason that said subpoena duces tecum was signed by the District Director, and not by the Price Administrator of the Office of Price Administration as required by the Emergency Price Control Act, as amended; that the subpoena duces tecum did not state the nature of the inquiry and did not limit the documents to be produced to those material to the inquiry; that the subpoena duces tecum by requiring all of the books, records and documents of Charles L. Smith pertaining to The Dungeness Company was so broad and sweeping as to be unreasonable in its demands.

2. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit erred in holding that the district court did not commit error in denying petitioner's Motion to Dismiss on Special Appearance Re Process for the reason that petitioner was never served with any process in connection with the Petition for an Order Requiring Respondents to Appear and Produce Certain Documents.

3. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit erred in ruling that the district court did not commit error in denying petitioner's Motion to Dismiss Petition for the reason the court never acquired any jurisdiction over the

subject matter of said petition and said petition fails to state a claim against petitioner upon which relief can be granted.

4. The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit erred in holding that the district court did not commit error in granting the Order Requiring Appearance and Production of Documents for the reasons that the subpoena duces tecum was signed by the District Director and not by the Price Administrator of the Office of Price Administration as required by the Emergency Price Control Act, as amended; that the subpoena duces tecum did not state the nature of the inquiry, and did not limit the documents to be produced to those material to the inquiry; that the subpoena duces tecum by requiring all of the books, records and documents of petitioner pertaining to The Dungeness Company was so broad and sweeping as to be unreasonable in its demands; that petitioner was never served with any process in connection with the petition; that the court never acquired any jurisdiction over the subject matter of said petition and that said petition fails to state a claim against petitioner upon which relief can be granted.

ARGUMENT

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

This argument is addressed solely to the reasons why the writ of certiorari should be granted.

Briefly the argument is that the writ should be granted because the opinion and order of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit conflicts with rulings of this court and other circuit court rulings on the following questions:

1. Whether the Price Administrator can delegate the subpoena power granted him by 50 U.S.C.A. App. sec. 922.

2. If the Price Administrator can lawfully delegate such subpoena power, whether the subpoena here involved complies with General Order No. 53 as revised May 13, 1944 (9 F.R. 5191).

3. Whether the subpoena must state the subject of the inquiry, limit the documents sought to those material to such stated inquiry and describe the wanted records with such particularity that they can be readily identified.

4. Whether the subpoena must specify the authority of those persons named therein who are to examine and copy such records.

5. Whether the subpoena was so broad and sweeping in its demands as to be unreasonable and thus void.

6. Whether the Rules of Civil Procedure apply to proceedings such as are here involved.

7. Whether in proceedings such as these the district court must hold a hearing, or have some evidence presented to it, concerning the materiality of the records to an inquiry specified in the subpoena.

POINT 1

THE PRICE ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DELEGATE THE SUBPOENA POWER GRANTED HIM BY 50 U.S.C.A. APP. SEC. 922.

The case of *Porter v. Mohawk Wrecking & Lumber Co.* (CCA 6) 156 F (2) 891, forcibly sets forth why the subpoena power is not delegable in the light of *Cudahy Packing Co. v. Holland*, 315 U. S. 357, because of the pertinent language of the Emergency Price Control Act being practically identical with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act construed in the *Cudahy* case.

POINT 2

EVEN THOUGH THE SUBPOENA POWER BE DELEGABLE, THE SUBPOENA DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 53, AS REVISED (9 FR 5191).

General Order No. 53, as revised May 13, 1944 (9 F.R. 5191), and which is set forth in the Appendix hereto, purports to authorize regional administrators and district directors to *sign and issue* subpoenas.

Prior to this revision, General Order No. 53 (8 F.R.

9037) only allowed regional administrators and district directors to *issue* subpoenas which had been signed by the Price Administrator.

In *Pinkus v. U. S.* (CCA 7) 155 F (2) 90, p. 92, that court says:

> "Appellants also contend that the subpoenas were invalid because signed and issued by the District Director under a purported delegation of the administrator not in fact authorized by the Act. The subpoenas were issued *in the name of the administrator and signed with his name,* by the District Director, *in accordance with the provisions* of Order No. 53, as revised May 13, 1944, 9 F.R. 5191." (Italics ours.)

As we read this language it is a holding that Order 53 requires the district director to issue the subpoena in the name of the Administrator, and requires the district director to sign the Administrator's name to the subpoena.

If this is the holding, then the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has held the exact contrary, because the subpoena here (R. 6-7) was signed by the district director in his own name. In fact the name of the Administrator nowhere appears on the subpoena. The district director purports to be acting under his own individual authority, not under that of the Administrator.

POINT 3

THE SUBPOENA DOES NOT CONFINE ITS REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE LIMITS WHICH REASON IMPOSES IN THE INSTANT CASE.

The subpoena does not state any subject of inquiry. Since no inquiry is stated the subpoena does not limit its requirements to records relevant to the non-stated inquiry. Neither does it describe the documents so they can be readily identified.

The ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit holding the subpoena valid is thus in direct conflict with the following cases:

Bowles v. Beatrice Creamery Co. (CCA 10) 146 F (2) 774, 779

Fleming v. Montgomery Ward & Co. (CCA 7) 114 F (2) 384, 388, 389

Wilson v. U. S. 221 U. S. 361, 380-382

on the points mentioned. *Cf. Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling,* 327 U. S. 186, 210, n. 46, 48.

POINT 4

THE SUBPOENA IS INVALID BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DEMAND PRODUCTION TO DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY.

Since the subpoena failed to designate the official capacities, if any, of Owens and Patterson it does not meet the requirements of demanding submission of the records only to duly constituted authority.

Essgee Company of China v. U. S. 262 U. S. 151, 156

Fleming v. Montgomery, supra, (CCA 7) p. 388, 385

The ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in holding the subpoena valid conflicts directly with the above cases on the point.

POINT 5

THE SUBPOENA IS INVALID BECAUSE OF THE UNREASONABLE BREADTH OF ITS DEMANDS.

Since the subpoena calls for all of petitioner's records without any limitation whatsoever, and calls for all of his correspondence, it is invalid under the rules announced by *Hale v. Henkel,* 201 U. S. 43, *Fed. Trade Comm. v. Amer. Tobacco Co.* 234 U. S. 298, and *Harriman v. Interstate Commerce Commission,* 211 U. S. 407.

The ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in holding the unlimited subpoena valid directly conflicts with the above cited cases. *Cf. Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, supra,* and *Bowles v. Abendroth* (CCA 9), 151 F (2) 407, 408.

POINT 6

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT SHOULD HAVE DETERMINED WHETHER THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE APPLY.

The question is a substantial one on which there is a diversity of views among various circuits. These cases

are cited on p.p. 15-16 of the petition and we will not repeat them here.

The statute (50 U.S.C.A. App. sec. 922(e)) provides no procedure for this type of case. If the Rules of Civil Procedure apply, petitioner should have been served with a twenty day summons and the petition treated as a complaint (Rules 4, 12(a) and 3). Also findings of fact and conclusions of law would seem to be required (Rule 52(a)).

The Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit failed to rule on the point.

We believe the question to be one of such importance in the field of federal procedure to the courts and the bar as to warrant this court settling the point.

POINT 7

EVIDENCE OF THE MATERIALITY OF THE RECORDS SOUGHT MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT COURT AND THE QUESTION OF RELEVANCY DETERMINED BY THAT COURT, AND FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS ENTERED.

In the present case no hearing of any kind was held and no evidence of the materiality of any of the documents was presented to the district court. Neither did the court enter any findings or conclusions.

It is essential in proceedings of this character, that the court have evidence before it of the materiality of the records sought and make a determination of their relev-

ancy to the inquiry in progress and should enter findings and conclusions thereon.

Hale v. Henkel, 201 U. S. 43

Fed. Trade Comm. v. Amer. Tobacco Co., 234 U. S. 298

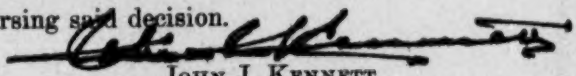
Okla. Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, 327 U. S. 186.

Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 52(a).

The ruling of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is in direct conflict with the above authorities.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that this case is one calling for the exercise of this court of its supervisory powers by granting a writ of certiorari and thereafter reviewing and reversing said decision.



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APPENDIX

50 USCA App. Sec. 921 (a), (b) and (d)

(a) There is hereby created an Office of Price Administration, which shall be under the direction of a Price Administrator (referred to in this Act as the "Administrator"). The Administrator shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall receive compensation at the rate of $12,000 per annum. The Administrator may, subject to the civil-service laws, appoint such employees as he deems necessary in order to carry out his functions and duties under this Act, and shall fix their compensation in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923, as amended (Title 5, Secs. 661-673, 674). The Administrator may utilize the services of Federal, State, and Local agencies and may utilize and establish such regional, local, or other agencies, and utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services, as may from time to time be needed. Attorneys appointed under this section may appear for and represent the Administrator in any case in any court. In the appointment, selection, classification, and promotion of officers and employees of the Office of Price Administration, no political test or qualification shall be permitted or given consideration, but all such appointments and promotions shall be given and made on the basis of merit and efficiency.

(b) The principal office of the Administrator shall be

in the District of Columbia, but he or any duly authorized representative may exercise any or all of his powers in any place. The President is authorized to transfer any of the powers and functions conferred by this Act upon the Office of Price Administration with respect to a particular commodity or commodities to any other department or agency of the Government having other functions relating to such commodity or commodities, and to transfer to the Office of Price Administration any of the powers and functions relating to priorities or rationing conferred by law upon any other department or agency of the Government with respect to any particular commodity or commodities; but, notwithstanding any provision of this or any other law, no powers or functions conferred by law upon the Secretary of Agriculture shall be transferred to the Office of Price Administration or to the Administrator, and no powers or functions conferred by law upon any other department or agency of the Government with respect to any agricultural commodity, except powers and functions relating to priorities or rationing, shall be so transferred.

(d) The Administrator may, from time to time, issue such regulations and orders as he may deem necessary or proper in order to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act.

50 USCA App. Secs. 922 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (g)

(a) The Administrator is authorized to make such

studies and investigations, to conduct such hearings, and to obtain such information as he deems necessary or proper to assist him in prescribing any regulation or order under this Act (sections 901-946 of this Appendix), or in the administration and enforcement of this Act (sections 901-946 of this Appendix) and regulations, orders, and price schedules thereunder.

(b) The Administrator is further authorized, by regulation or order, to require any person who is engaged in the business of dealing with any commodity, or who rents or offers for rent or acts as broker or agent for the rental of any housing accommodations, to furnish any such information under oath or affirmation or otherwise, to make and keep records and other documents and to make reports, and he may require any such person to permit the inspection and copying of records and other documents, the inspection of inventories, and the inspection of defense-area housing accommodations. The Administrator may administer oaths and affirmations and may, whenever necessary, by subpena require any such person to appear and testify or to appear and produce documents, or both, at any designated place.

(c) For the purpose of obtaining any information under subsection (a), the Administrator may by subpena require any other person to appear and testify or to appear and produce documents, or both, at any designated place.

(e) In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpena served upon, any person referred to in subsection (c), the district court for any district in which such person is found or resides or transacts business, upon application by the Administrator, shall have jurisdiction to issue an order requiring such person to appear and give testimony or to appear and produce documents, or both; and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall also apply to any person referred to in subsection (b), and shall be in addition to the provisions of section 4 (a) (section 904(a) of this Appendix).

(g) No person shall be excused from complying with any requirements under this section because of his privilege against self-incrimination, but the immunity provisions of the Compulsory Testimony Act of February 11, 1893 (U.S.C., 1934 edition, title 49, sec. 46), shall apply with respect to any individual who specifically claims such privilege.

50 USCA App. Secs. 925 (a) and (e)

(a) Whenever in the judgment of the Administrator any person has engaged or is about to engage in any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of section 4 of this Act (section 904 of this Appendix), he may make application to the appropriate

court for an order enjoining such acts or practices, or for an order enforcing compliance with such provision, and upon a showing by the Administrator that such person has engaged or is about to engage in any such acts or practices a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order shall be granted without bond.

(e) If any person selling a commodity violates a regulation, order, or price schedule prescribing a maximum price or maximum prices, the person who buys such commodity for use or consumption other than in the course of trade or business may, within one year from the date of the occurrence of the violation, except as hereinafter provided, bring an action against the seller on account of the overcharge. In such action, the seller shall be liable for reasonable attorney's fees and costs as determined by the court plus whichever of the following sums is the greater: (1) Such amount not more than three times the amount of the overcharge, or the overcharges, upon which the action is based as the court in its discretion may determine, or (2) an amount not less than $25 nor more than $50, as the court in its discretion may determine: *Provided, however,* That such amount shall be be the amount of the overcharge or overcharges or $25, whichever is greater, if the defendant proves that the violation of the regulation, order, or price schedule in question was neither wilfull nor the result of failure to take practicable precautions against the

occurrence of the violation. For the purposes of this section the payment or receipt of rent for defense-area housing accommodations shall be deemed the buying or selling of a commodity as the case may be; and the word "overcharge" shall mean the amount by which the construction exceeds the applicable maximum price. If any person selling a commodity violates a regulation, order, or price schedule prescribing a maximum price or maximum prices, and the buyer either fails to institute an action under this subsection within thirty days from the date of the occurrence of the violation or is not entitled for any reason to bring the action, the Administrator may institute such action on behalf of the United States within such one-year period. If such action is instituted by the Administrator, the buyer shall thereafter be barred from bringing an action for the same violation or violations. Any action under this subsection by either the buyer or the Administrator, as the case may be, may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction. A judgment in an action for damages under this subsection shall be a bar to the recovery under this subsection of any damages in any other action against the same seller on account of sales made to the same purchaser prior to the institution of the action in which the judgment was rendered.

GENERAL ORDER 53

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

(Document No. 18060)

General Order 53

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE RENT AND PRICE SUBPOENAS AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon the Administrator by the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, as amended the following order is prescribed:

(a) *Order delegating authority to issue subpoenas and inspection requirements in rent and price investigations.* In connection with any investigation related to the administration or enforcement of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 as amended, or any regulation or order issued thereunder, the several Regional Administrators and the several District Directors of the Office of Price Administration are each authorized within their respective Regions, or Districts to (1) issue subpoenas, signed by the Administrator, requiring any person to appear and testify or to appear and produce documents, or both, at any designated place; (2) issue inspection requirements, signed by the Administrator, requiring any person who is engaged in the business of dealing with any commodity, or

who rents or offers for rent or acts as broker or agent for the rental of any housing accommodations, to permit the inspection and copying of records and any other documents and to permit the inspection of inventories or defense-rental area housing accommodations, or both.

(b) The terms used herein shall have the same meaning as in the Emergency Price Control Act.

Issued and effective this 29th day of June 1943.

PRENTISS M. BROWN,
Administrator.

REVISED GENERAL ORDER NO. 53

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS DELEGATION TO SIGN AND ISSUE RENT AND PRICE SUBPOENAS AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

"General Order 53 is amended and revised to read as follows:

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon the Administrator by the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 as amended, the following order is prescribed:

(a) *Order delegating authority to sign and issue subpoenas and inspection requirements in rent and price investigations.* In connection with any investigation releated to the administration or enforcement of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 as amended, or any regulation of Price Administration are each authorized within their istrators and the several District Directors of the Office of Price Administration are each authorized within their rerespective regions, or districts to sign and issue: (1) subpoenas requiring any person to appear and testify or to appear and produce documents, or both, at any designated place; (2) inspection requirements requiring any person who is engaged in the business of dealing with any commodity, or who rents or offers for rent or acts as broker or agent for the rental of any housing accommodation, to permit the inspection and copying of records and any

other documents and to permit the inspection of inventories or defense-rental area housing accommodations, or both.

(b) The terms used herein shall have the same meaning as in the Emergency Price Control Act.

Issued and effective this 13th day of May, 1944."

CHESTER BOWLES,
Administrator.

"Issued 5-11-43, 8 FR 6199 (effective 5-11-43)."

"Issued 6-29-43 8 FR 9037 (effective 6-29-43); revised 5-13-44, 9 FR 5191 (5-13-44)."